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**PATENT**

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Shinichi Ogimoto

**Application No.:** 10/786,402

**Confirmation No.:** 2893

**Filed:** February 25, 2004

**For:** METHOD FOR BONDING  
SUBSTRATES AND APPARATUS FOR  
BONDING SUBSTRATES

**Group:** 1734

**Examiner:** Koch, George R.

**Our File:** SAS2-PT069

**Date:** April 6, 2005

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND REPLY PURSUANT  
TO 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply is responsive to the Office Action dated March 9, 2005. Please amend the application without prejudice as follows: